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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/758,386

01/15/2004

Memphis-Zhihong Yin

200312164-1

5428

22879 7590 01/10/2007
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EXAMINER

WRIGHT, INGRID D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/10/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/758,386

Applicant(s)

YIN ET AL.

Examiner

Ingrid Wright

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,3-8 & 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goff US 6033240 in view of Liao US 6193522 B1.

Re claim 1, Goff teaches a computer system (10), comprising: a sidewall having an aperture () therethrough; and a connector apparatus (14) disposed to pass at least partially through the aperture, able to be positioned in a retracted position to conceal at least one of the connector inside the computer system (see, Abstract of Goff) and in an extended position in which at least one of the connectors is accessible outside of the computer system (see, Abstract of Goff); and wherein in the retracted position only an outer face of the connector apparatus (14) is exposed there through the aperture, but is silent as to an additional connector on the apparatus (14) for simultaneously connecting plural peripheral devices. Although, Goff teaches a connector apparatus, except an additional connector on the apparatus (14), it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to duplicate the connector slot of the apparatus of Goff, in order to provide an enhanced connector capable of multi connections. To include an additional connector slot on the connector apparatus (14) would have be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, since this skill level requires duplication and is well within the level of one skilled in the art. Additionally, Liao teaches a multi-connector (1,2), for simultaneously connecting plural peripheral devices. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize

multi-connector Liao in the invention of Goff, in order to provide an electrical connection for the peripheral devices connected to the system of Goff and Liao is only used to provide the added limitations of multi-connector.

Re claim 3, Goff teaches a computer system (see, Abstract of Goff) comprising a housing (19) having a top side (22) and a sidewall (see, sidewall of (19) of Goff) and a port connector apparatus (14), having a port connector parallel to the top side and adapted to receive a mating connector (16) in a direction substantially parallel to the sidewall, when in an extended position, and having only an outer face, but is silent as to receiving plural mating connectors. Although, Goff teaches a connector apparatus, except receiving plural mating connectors, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to duplicate the connector slot of (14) to receive an additional connector, in order to provide an enhanced connector capable of multi connections. To include an additional connector slot on the connector apparatus (14), to receive an additional connector, would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, as this skill level requires duplication and is well within the level of one skilled in the art.

Additionally, Liao teaches receiving plural mating connectors, within slots of a multi-connector (1,2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize multiple mating connectors as taught by Liao in the invention of Goff, in order to provide an electrical connection for the peripheral devices connected to the system of Goff and Liao is only used to provide the added limitations of plural mating connectors.

Re claim 4, Goff teaches the sidewall (see, sidewall of (19) of Goff), which has an aperture and the port connector apparatus (14), which includes an extension/retraction mechanism (40,42,43) that enables the port connector apparatus (14) to be extended and retracted through the aperture.

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Re claim 5, Goff teaches a housing means (19) having an aperture (28) and a means for changing (30) a port connector exposed outside of the housing means (19) and wherein the changing means enables a port connectors to move back and forth through the aperture (28) and moves to an extended position outwardly from the housing for connecting a peripheral device, and a changing means (30) is mounted in the housing (19) and not fully detachable, but is silent as to simultaneously connecting plural peripheral devices a plurality of port connectors. Although, Goff teaches a changing means (30), which enables a connector to connect to a peripheral device, except simultaneously connecting to plural peripheral devices, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to duplicate an additional connector slot on the changing means of Goff, in order to provide an enhanced connector capable of multi connections. To include an additional connector on connector apparatus (14) would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, as this skill level requires duplication and is well within the level of one skilled in the art. Additionally, Liao teaches the capability of simultaneously connecting to plural peripheral devices, via slots of connector (1,2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the slots as taught by Liao in the invention of Goff, in order to provide an electrical connection for the peripheral devices connected to the system of Goff and Liao is only used to provide the added limitations of the ability of simultaneously connecting to plural peripheral devices.

Re claim 6, Goff teaches a means for holding (40,42,43) the port connector in a retracted position relative to the housing (19) and a means for releasing (40,42,43) the port connector from the retracted position relative to the housing (19).

Re claim 7, Goff teaches a housing (19) and a connector tray (see, tray of connector apparatus (14)) connected to the housing (19) and having a port connector and wherein a port connector is accessible

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when the connector tray is extended at least partially outside the housing (19) than when the tray (see, tray of connector apparatus (14) of Goff) is retracted within the housing (19), but is silent as to port connectors that simultaneously connect plural peripheral devices. Liao teaches the capability of simultaneously connecting plural peripheral devices, via sets of a connector (1,2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize multiple slots as taught by Liao in the invention of Goff, in order to provide an electrical connection for the peripheral devices connected to the system of Goff and Liao is only used to provide the added limitations of the ability to simultaneously connect plural peripheral devices.

Re claim 8, Goff teaches a connector tray (tray of (14)), a port connector (connector inside (14)) disposed in the second portion (38) of the connector tray and an extension/retraction mechanism (40,43,43) that locks the first and second portions (98,38) in a retracted position until released therefrom and enables the released first and second portion to extend to an extended position, but is silent as to the second portion being pivotable and a plurality of connectors in the second portion. Liao teaches a multi-connector, whereby the second portion is pivotable to a first portion. Thus, to modify Goff, by employing a pivotable second portion with multi-connectors, would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. The skilled artisan would be motivated to combine the multi-connector of Liao, in the invention of Goff, since Goff also teaches a connector apparatus and Lia is only used to provide the added limitation of a multi-connector, pivotable to a first portion.

Regarding the method claims 11-13, the method steps recited in the claims are inherently necessitated by the device structure as taught by Goff & Liao. Goff & Liao disclosed a computer system (10) with a multiple-connector tray (10,1,2) with first and second portions in a retracted position relative to a housing (19) of the computer system (10), the multiple-connector tray (1) having plural connectors in the second

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portion (1) inaccessible in the retracted position; extending the multiple-connector tray to an extended position relative to the housing (19) to expose the second portion and pivoting the second portion relative to the first portion to render the connector is accessible.

2. Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goff US 6033240 in view of Na US 6537085 B2.

Re claim 14, Goff teaches a retractable connector apparatus (14) that is mounted inside an aperture of the computer system and being partially detachable from the computer system (via an element (12)), but is silent as to a multi-connector apparatus, exposing multiple connectors for simultaneously connecting plural peripheral devices and being not detachable from the computer system. Na teaches a multi connector (200), which simultaneously connects plural peripheral devices and is not detachable from a computer housing. Therefore, to modify Goff, by employing a non detachable multi-connector apparatus, would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, since Na teaches a computer system having these design characteristics. The skilled artisan would be motivated to combine the multi-connector of Na in the invention of Goff, since Goff also teaches a connector apparatus for a computer system and Na is only used to provide the added limitation of a multi-connector, not detachable from a housing.

Re claim 15, Goff teaches the retractable connector apparatus (14) is integrated with housing (19).

Re claim 16, Goff as modified by Na, teaches the multi-connector apparatus (200,14) retracts entirely into the computer system.

Re claim 17, Goff as modified by Na, teaches a housing (19) wherein the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (14) retracts within the housing (19) to a position at which a remote side of the retractable connector apparatus is flush with a wall of the housing (19).

3. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goff US 6033240 in view of Na US 6537085 B2, further in view of Liao US 6193522 B1.

Re claim 18, Goff as modified by Na, teaches a housing (19) and a retractable multiple-connector apparatus, extended from the housing (19), but is silent as to a first portion and a second portion, whereby the second pivots. Liao teaches multi-connector apparatus having a first (2) and second portion (1), whereby the second portion pivots relative to the first portion. Therefore, to modify Goff as modified by Na, by providing a multi-connector apparatus having a first and second portion, would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made since, Liao teaches a connector having these design characteristics. The skilled artisan would be motivated to combine the multi-connector of Liao in the invention of Goff as modified by Na, since Goff & Na teaches a connector apparatus and Liao is only used to provide the added limitation of multi-connector having a first and a second portion.

Re claim 19, Goff as modified by Na & Liao teaches a second portion (1) of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (10) that pivots to an extended rather than a vertical position, relative to a housing.

Re claim 20, Goff as modified by Na & Liao, teaches the retractable multi-connector apparatus (200), further comprises a connector accessible from a side away from the housing (19) of the computer system.

4. Claims 2 & 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goff US 6033240 in view of Liao US 6193522 B1, further in view of Garside US 5971777.

Re claim 2, in regards to all the limitations of claim 1 above, Goff as modified by Liao, is silent as to a push-push mechanism. Garside teaches a push-push mechanism for a connector apparatus (26), for coupling with a physical/electrical medial plug. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the push-push mechanism as taught by Garside over the push-pull mechanism of Goff as modified by Liao, in order to provide an alternate equivalent means of positioning the connector of Goff in a retracted and an extended position.

Re claim 9, in regards to all the limitations of claim 7 above, Goff as modified by Liao, is silent as to a push-push mechanism. Garside teaches the extension/retraction mechanism, which comprises a push-push mechanism. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the push-push mechanism as taught by Garside over the push-pull mechanism of Goff as modified by Liao, in order to provide an alternate equivalent means of positioning the connector of Goff in a retracted and an extended position.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goff US 6033240 in view of Liao US 6193522 B1, further in view of Machado et al. US 6848943 B3.

Re claim 10, in regards to all the limitations of claim 7 above, Goff as modified by Liao, teaches an extension/retraction mechanism (40,42,43), but is silent as to a button. Machado et al. teaches a button (see, col. 13, lines 64-67 & col. 14, lines 1-6 of Machado et al., for permitting removal of a connector (280) from an interior housing comprising a shielding member (283). It would have been obvious to one

having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the button of Machado et al., in the invention of Goff as modified by Liao, in order to provide an alternate equivalent means of insertion/removal of the connector (of Goff) within the computer housing of Goff.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/25/06, regarding claims 1-20, have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground (s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571)272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (571)272-2800, ext 34. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or

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IDW


LISA LEA-EDMONDS
PRIMARY EXAMINER